

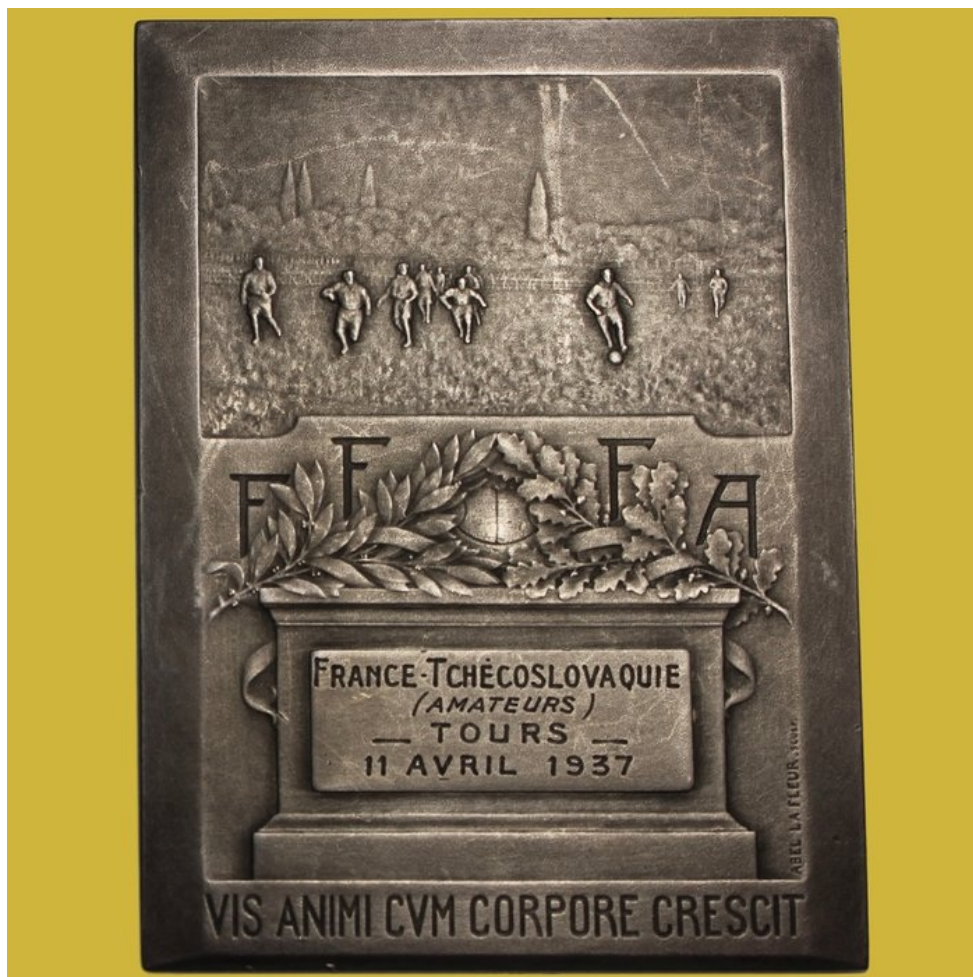
Equal Pay & Equal Rights

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The globe has just seen the completion of the women's World Cup, with the American team putting the finishing touch on their impressive and decision run at the tournament hosted by France. Though the women's competition was founded not even 30 years ago in 1991, it is clear that the level of play can be, and is, just as entertaining as the men's, especially after these most recent games.

For the American women, this marks their fourth win in just eight tries. Had the rules been the way in which they originally were for the men, team USA would have won the trophy outright for themselves in 2015, as the FIFA rules regarding the original World Cup, known as the Jules Rimet Cup, stated that any nation winning for their third time would, in fact, be able to keep the cup. This happened in 1970, when Brazil won for the third time, keeping the cup, and creating a need for a new cup to be commissioned. The original cup was designed by Abel Lafleur, who was also an accomplished medalist, designing such pieces as the following silver plaque, engraved for an amateur match in 1937 between host France and Czechoslovakia...



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The women's game has also found a home in the Olympics, but this has only been the case since the 1996 games in Atlanta. Prior to that, the most recent summer games to be held in the United States were those held in Los Angeles in 1984. During this year, the Summer Olympics committee commissioned famous Spanish artist Salvador Dalí with the task of preparing a set of 11 medals featuring the games being played in a way in which only he could portray...



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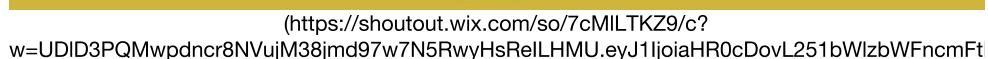
One of the overriding themes of this year's cup, which actually goes back quite some time, has been the idea of equal pay. Despite the fact that the American women have been infinitely more entertaining and successful than their male colleagues, they still earn $\frac{1}{4}$ of what the men would have earned for accomplishing the same feat. Additionally, the total prize money for this year's women's tournament was \$30 million compared to last year's total purse for the men, which was an astounding \$400 million. Despite our movement into the 21st century, it would seem that the strong yokes of the patriarchy nevertheless persist.

Paralleling this pushback against equal rights for women is the recent fervor in some states to challenge current abortion laws, proposing, and attempting to enact, rather draconic measures seemingly rooted in the Middle Ages. This month, we have two highly interesting and seldom seen pieces of medallion art on the topic of pregnancy and childbirth, one from Sweden, honoring an embryologist and comparative anatomist...



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...and one from East Germany during the Cold War, issued for the Society of Perinatal Medicine...



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A collage of various medals and coins. At the top left is a circular medal featuring the Statue of Liberty. Below it is a large, stylized eye. To the right of the eye is a small circular medal with a figure. In the center is a rectangular medal with a scene and text. To its right is a large circular medal depicting a hand holding a baby. Further right is a rectangular medal with a car and a circular inset above it showing another car. At the bottom right is a circular medal with a car and text. In the bottom center is a small circular medal with a profile of a man.

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